

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-26. (cancelled)

27. (new) An operating unit for an electrophotographic printing or copying system, comprising:

a graphical user interface with input or output fields with help of which the electrophotographic printing or copying system is operated;

at least two preset user accounts;

upon establishing or configuring a user account, possible input or output field, that can be displayed with help of the user interface are activated or deactivated;

the input or output fields to be displayed with the help of the graphical user interface are preset and assigned to every user account;

a user account being selectable from at least two preset user accounts;

according to the user account selected, a graphical user interface having the assigned input or output fields is output; and

with help of the user accounts, different access rights to operating functions of the printing or copying system are obtained.

28. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein presetting concerns at least one of display, write authorization, language, activation/deactivation, or display manner of the input or output field.

29. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein a name of a currently set user account or a name of a user assigned to the user account are displayed in a portion of the graphical user interface.

30. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein a name of a user is assigned to at least one user account, wherein the user account is selected with help of the user name.

31. (new) The operating unit according to claim 30 wherein an operating personnel inputs or selects the user name so that the operating personnel has access to operating elements of the graphical user interface.

32. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein the user account is selectable after checking an authentication code.

33. (new) The operating unit according to claim 32 wherein the authentication code is provided in data of a storage card, in biometric features of the operating personnel, or in a password.

34. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein for generating a user account, a user name is assignable to a preset user account type, so that a preset authorization level is assigned to the user account.

35. (new) The operating unit according to claim 34 wherein depending on the authorization level assigned to the user account, display or input fields are deactivated, wherein input fields, output fields, or menu fields are shown deactivated.

36. (new) The operating unit according to claim 35 wherein given a deactivated display, a deactivated field or a deactivated menu item are shown in a low-contrast color in comparison to a surrounding field of the menu item.

37. (new) The operating unit according to claim 27 wherein the input or output fields comprise graphical function keys, graphical shift regulators in output fields, check boxes, or menu items.

38. (new) A method for operating an electrophotographic printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

operating the electrophotographic printing or copying system with help of a graphical user interface having input or output fields;

providing at least two preset user accounts;

upon establishing or configuring a user account, possible input or output fields are displayable with help of the user interface;

presetting and assigning to every user account the input or output fields to be displayed with help of the graphical user interface;

selecting a user account from the at least two preset user accounts;

according to the user account selected, outputting a graphical user interface having the assigned input or output fields; and

with help of the user accounts, obtaining different access rights to operating functions of the printing or copying system.

39. (new) A graphical user interface for operating an electrophotographic printing or copying system, comprising:

input or output fields with help of which the electrophotographic printing or copying system is operated;

at least two presettable user accounts;

upon establishing or configuring a user account, possible input or output fields which are activated or deactivated are displayed with the graphical user interface;

the input or output fields displayed with the graphical user interface are preset and assigned to every user account;

a user account selectable from the at least two presettable user accounts;

according to the user account selected, the graphical user interface having the assigned input or output fields is generated and output; and

with the user accounts, different access rights to operating functions of the printing or copying system are obtained via the user interface.

40. (new) A graphical user interface according to claim 39 wherein an input field of the graphical user interface is shown deactivated when, due to an

operating state of the printing or copying system, a display value is not available, and an input field is shown deactivated when, due to an operating state of the printing or copying system, no input can be made.

41. (new) A method for operating an electrophotographic printing or copying system, comprising the steps of:

operating the electrophotographic printing or copying system with help of a graphical user interface having input or output fields;

providing at least two preset user accounts;

upon establishing or configuring a user account, activating or deactivating possible input or output fields that are displayable with help of the user interface;

presetting and assigning to every user account the input or output fields to be displayed with help of the graphical user interface;

selecting a user account from the at least two preset user accounts;

according to the user account selected, outputting a graphical user interface having the assigned input or output fields;

with help of the user accounts, obtaining different access rights to operating functions of the printing or copying system; and

individually determining for every user account which menu items and display elements are to be provided in the graphical user interface.

42. (new) A method of claim 41 wherein it is determined for every user account whether the individual elements of the user interface have a status "READ ONLY" or not.

43. (new) A method of claim 41 wherein for every user account in addition to an authorization level, the input or output fields to be displayed with aid of the graphical user interface are assigned and preset.